Railway/Zone	Acct	Adm	Civil	Coml	Elect	Mech	Med	Pers.	RPF	S&T	Store	TPT
North Eastern	31	41	1704	184	195	784	85	26	187	69	138	239
Northeast Frontier	234	161	3611	589	777	2696	356	107	653	511	250	807
Northern	343	264	5505	-37	1759	5423	465	49	772	984	537	738
North Western	331	187	3525	217	487	1850	133	60	104	472	231	924
South Central	193	177	5368	125	433	2500	133	128	227	370	262	761
South East Central	335	100	3703	220	1204	1078	133	138	231	354	125	656
South Eastern	84	-12	5402	222	1026	2101	358	144	500	711	814	938
Southern	197	105	3704	-17	841	2300	159	127	278	363	169	588
South Western	332	186	3086	232	184	1988	157	38	27	115	299	544
West Central	298	209	3360	412	378	1466	151	153	104	354	235	1010
Western	545	-117	3047	1189	1162	1408	255	43	916	851	368	223

Note: Figures are (provisional) and Negative (-) figures indicates excess of staff over sanctioned strength.

(b) Any large organization like the Railway will have vacancies at any point of time. Arising and filling up of vacancies is a continuous process. Vacancies arise due to normal retirement, voluntary retirements, deaths, promotions etc. Vacancies are filled primarily through open market recruitment, promotions and compassionate ground appointments which is done through Railways Recruitment Boards or by the Zonal Railways themselves. Other vacancies in the promotional grade are filled through departmental promotions.

Mosquito density at stations

1655. DR. K. MALAISAMY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Chennai Central, Egmore, Madurai, Coimbatore, Tirunelvelli, Tiruchirapalli and Katpadi are 'high risk' stations taking into account of alarming mosquito density there and the Railway premises have crossed critical levels of density;

(b) if so, whether any survey has been conducted in this regard;

(c) whether it is a fact that the mosquito density was around 10 man-hour density in residential areas while it was over 500 man-hour density at railway stations;

(d) the reasons for the occurrence of the menace; and

(e) the measures taken to eliminate this menace and the measures to mitigate, if elimination is not possible?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir. However, Tamil Nadu State Health authorities have been requested to conduct an assessment of mosquito density in all the stations involving Railway health authorities also.

(d) Geoclimatic conditions *e.g.* temperature and humidity determine the growth and breeding of mosquitoes.

(e) Source reduction of mosquito breeding is done by frequent removal of silt, clearing of open drains, timely collection and removal of garbage. Special drives are being carried out through mass spraying and fogging throughout Railway premises. Target areas for successful and effective sprays are prioritised in order to give more attention to potential breeding habitats. Entomological surveys for assessment of mosquito density are being carried out in collaboration with State Health authorities. Observance of Anti-Mosquito fortnight between 5th and 20th March, 2008. To improve supervision, 48 additional posts of Health and Malaria Inspectors have been created in Southern Railway.

Purchase of Punjabi newspapers for Shatabdi trains

1656. SHRI TARLOCHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) how many Punjabi newspapers were purchased for the distribution in Shatabdi trains on Delhi-Chandigarh and Delhi-Amritsar routes;

(b) the details for last two years alongwith the names of newapapers, month-wise; and

(c) what is the policy of his Ministry towards promoting regional language newspapers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

(c) As per policy, to promote use of Hindi and regional languages, newspapers in Hindi/ English languages are to be supplied in the ratio of 50:50 in Hindi speaking areas and newspapers of Hindi/English/Regional language in equal proportion in other than Hindi speaking areas. Zonal railways are also empowered to decide suppplying of newspapers for meeting the regional requirement, if any, even in Hindi speaking areas to meet the passengers demand.

Modernisation of railway stations in Uttarakhand

1657. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of railway stations identified for the purpose of renovations and expansions in the State of Uttarakhand during the financial year 2008-09; and

(b) the amount earmarked for the said purposes for each station, separately?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) During the year 2008-09, no station has been identified for the purpose of modernization in the State of Uttarakhand. However, following stations were identified for renovation/ expansion/modernization in the preceding years—

Dehradun, Haridwar, Roorkee, Rishikesh, Kashipur, Haldwani, Lalkuan, Rudrapur City, Kathgodam and Ramnagar.

Other stations would be taken up subsequently on completion of modernization works at all the above stations.

(b) Does not arise.